



Sustainable Groundwater Management Workshop

April 16, 2014

Groundwater in Context

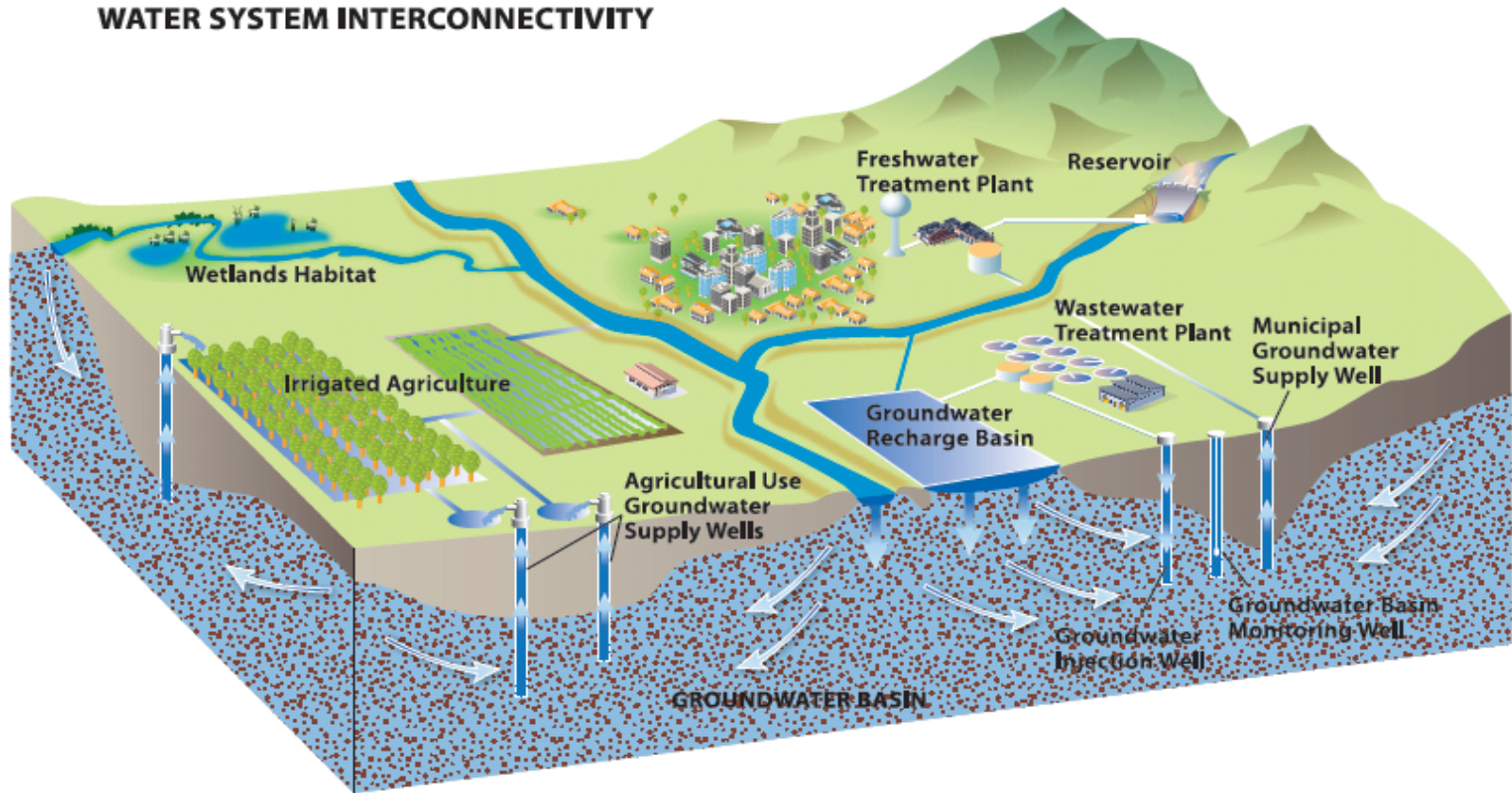


- 40% of supply in an average year; 60% in dry
- Critical part of integrated management
- Flexible source for storage and use
- Several decades of increasing use
 - Reduction in surface supplies
 - Hardening of demand
- Increasing landowner conflicts



Integrated Water Management

WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTIVITY



Presentation Outline



- Outreach Efforts
- Draft Findings
- Draft Recommendations
- Challenging issues
- Next steps



Outreach Efforts



- Stakeholder Steering Committee
- Multiple Interest Group meetings
- Individual Stakeholder discussions
- State Agency discussions
- State Administration and Legislative discussions

Draft Findings



- Groundwater resources are essential to California's economy, environment and public health and safety
- Current groundwater management trends are not sustainable
- Groundwater is most effectively managed at the local and regional level ["Subsidiarity"]
- Local groundwater management entities require new authorities



Draft Findings (cont.)



- Clear and meaningful state roles are needed to protect state interests in groundwater management
- Provide sufficient time to achieve groundwater sustainability
- Funding is needed to support sustainable groundwater management
- Groundwater management needs to be inclusive and transparent
- Protection of property rights is a critical part of groundwater management





Draft Recommendations



Sustainable Groundwater Management Draft Recommendations



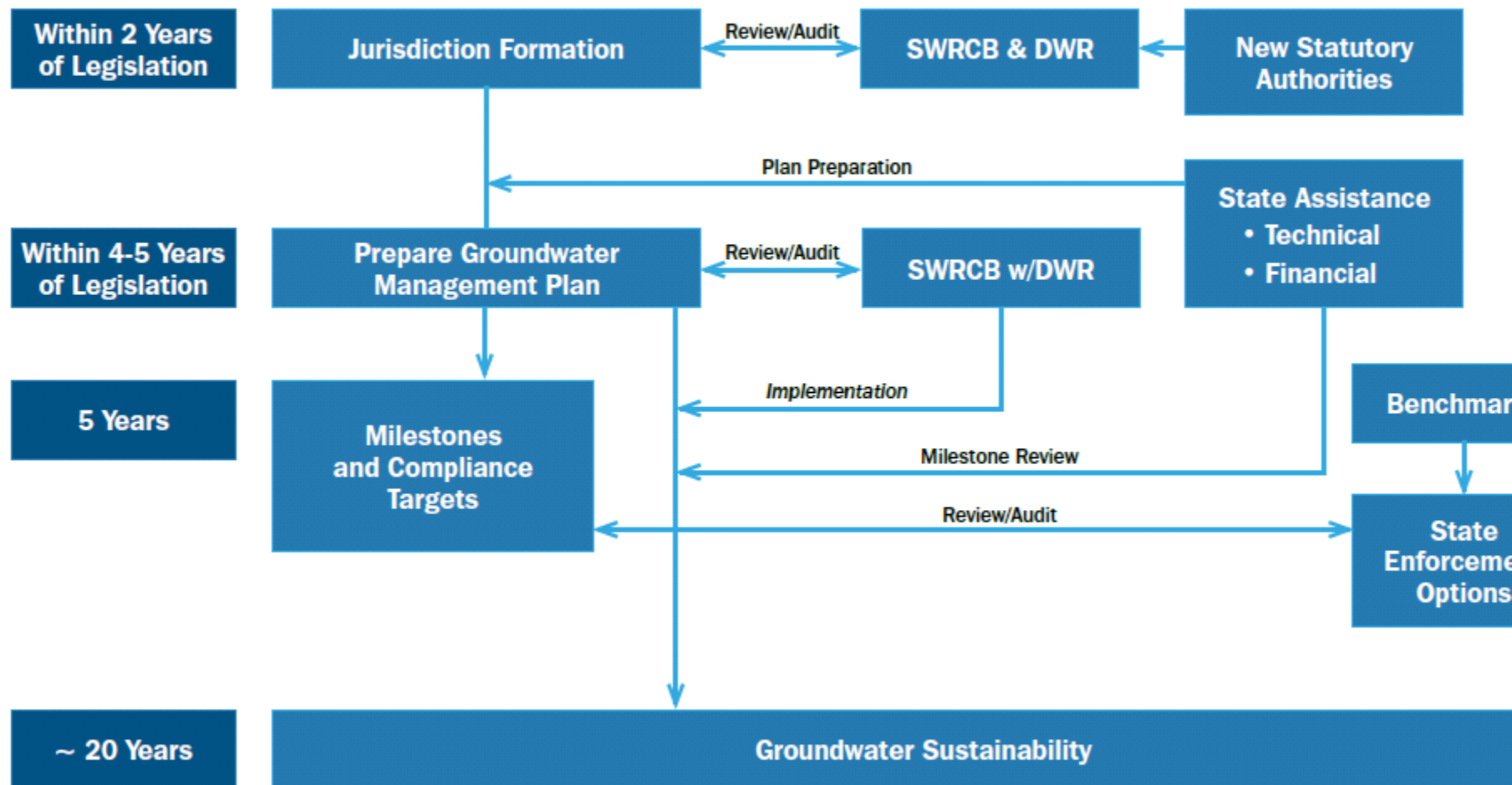
1. Adopt a definition of sustainable groundwater management
2. Develop a prioritized statewide program covering all subbasins
3. Establish local groundwater management entities
4. Provide local entities with sufficient groundwater management authorities

Sustainable Groundwater Management Draft Recommendations (cont'd)



5. Develop local sustainable groundwater management plans
6. Establish a clear and coordinated state role for assistance, oversight, and enforcement
7. Reduce time and cost of adjudications
8. Establish funding for groundwater management

CONCEPT FOR: Groundwater Act of 2014 for *priority basins*



Draft Recommendation 1:

Definition of sustainable groundwater management

To protect the resource for future generations, sustainable groundwater management means the management of a groundwater subbasin to provide for multiple long-term benefits without resulting in or aggravating conditions that cause significant economic, social, or environmental impacts, such as:

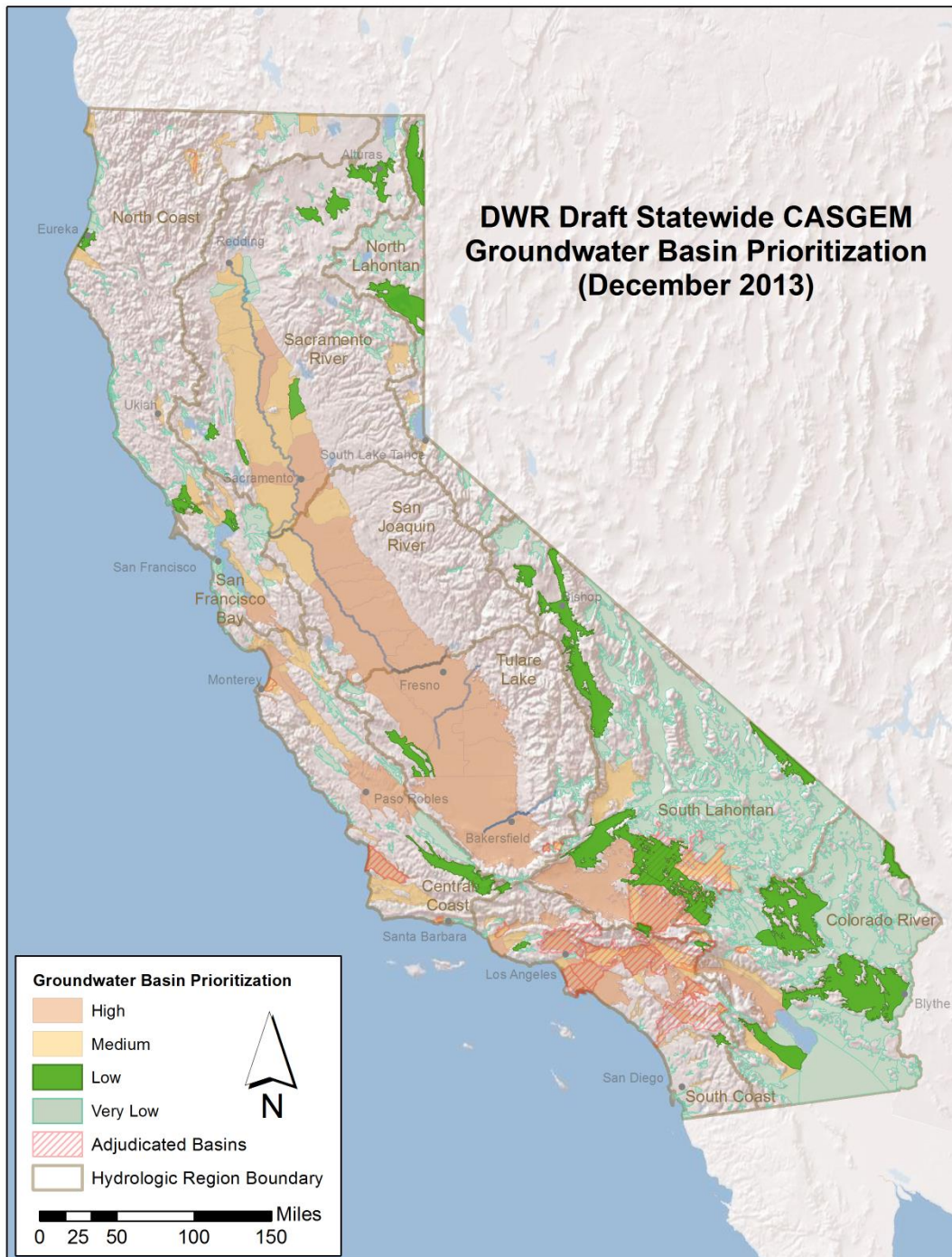
- long-term overdraft*
- land subsidence*
- ecosystem degradation*
- depletions from surface water bodies*
- water quality degradation*

Draft Recommendation 2:

Geographic scope and priorities

- A single statewide program applies to all Bulletin 118 subbasins
- Prioritization based on DWR rankings for CASGEM
- DWR and DFW assess subbasin criteria for groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE)
- DWR should formalize boundary change criteria and process

DWR Draft Statewide CASGEM Groundwater Basin Prioritization (December 2013)

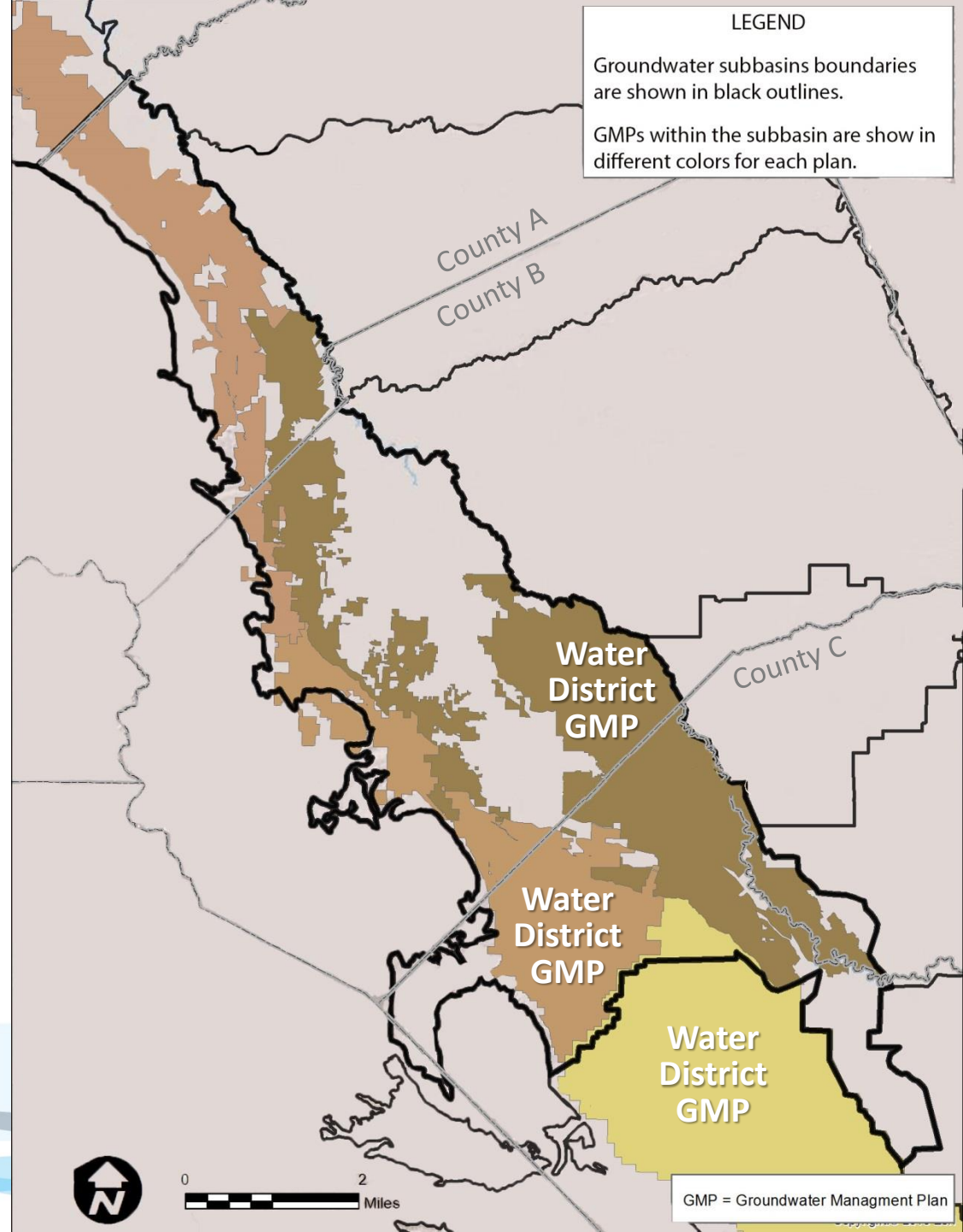


Draft Recommendation 3:

Local Groundwater Management Entities (LGME)

- Each subbasin must be within the jurisdiction of a single LGME
- Utilize existing entities (JPA, MOU, other), or create new entity
- Authorities become available upon formation
- Two years to form LGME and report to State
- Open and transparent decision making

LGME Jurisdiction Formation



Draft Recommendation 4:

Groundwater Management Authorities

- Measuring and reporting on groundwater conditions
- Allocating groundwater and managing pumping consistent with property rights
- Assessing fees
- Allowing and approving groundwater transfers
- Land use coordination with counties
- Ability to enforce requirements

Draft Recommendation 5:

Groundwater Management Plans

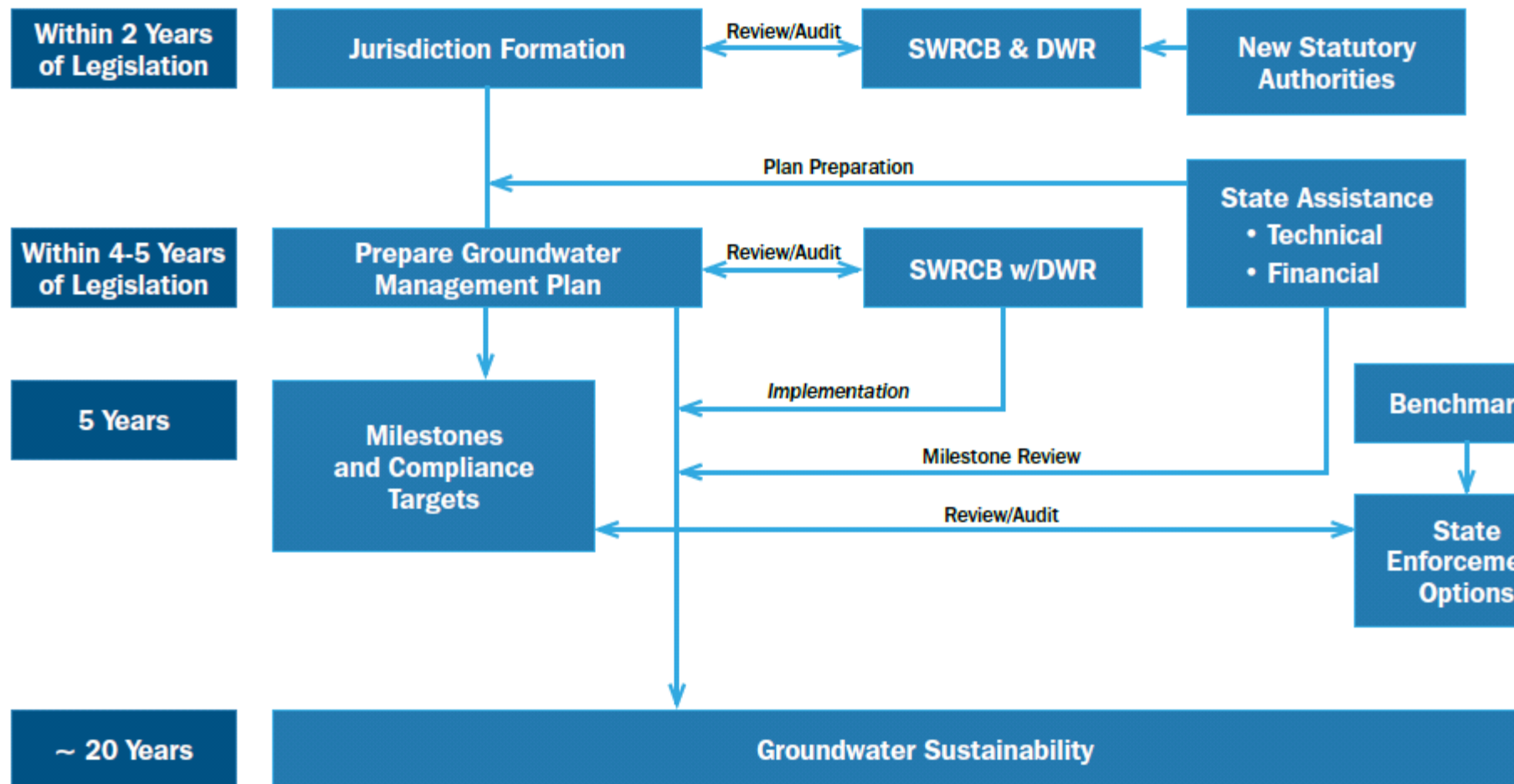
- Each subbasin to prepare one plan to achieve sustainable management (Rec. #1)
- Include current statutory components (e.g. SB 1938) plus additional requirements
- Water budgets required
- Interim milestones and final targets with dates
- Two-three years after forming LGME to prepare plans
- Less urgent schedule for lower priority basins

Draft Recommendation 6:

State Role

- Technical assistance – DWR
- Program oversight – DWR and SWRCB
- Enforcement – SWRCB in consultation with DWR
- Criteria and process for state intervention – SWRCB
- Nature of state intervention – SWRCB
- Regulatory relief – SWRCB in consultation with DWR

CONCEPT FOR: Groundwater Act of 2014 for *priority basins*



Draft Recommendation 7



Administrative Groundwater Adjudication

- Focused process for dispute resolution
- Use pre-approved ALJ's
- Potential to reduce time and cost
- Develop technical record at the local level



Draft Recommendation 8:

Funding for groundwater management

- Multi-source funding strategy
- Additional funding needed at local and state levels
- Address current funding challenges (e.g. 218)
- New state and local fees and taxes
- Water bond funding: existing and new

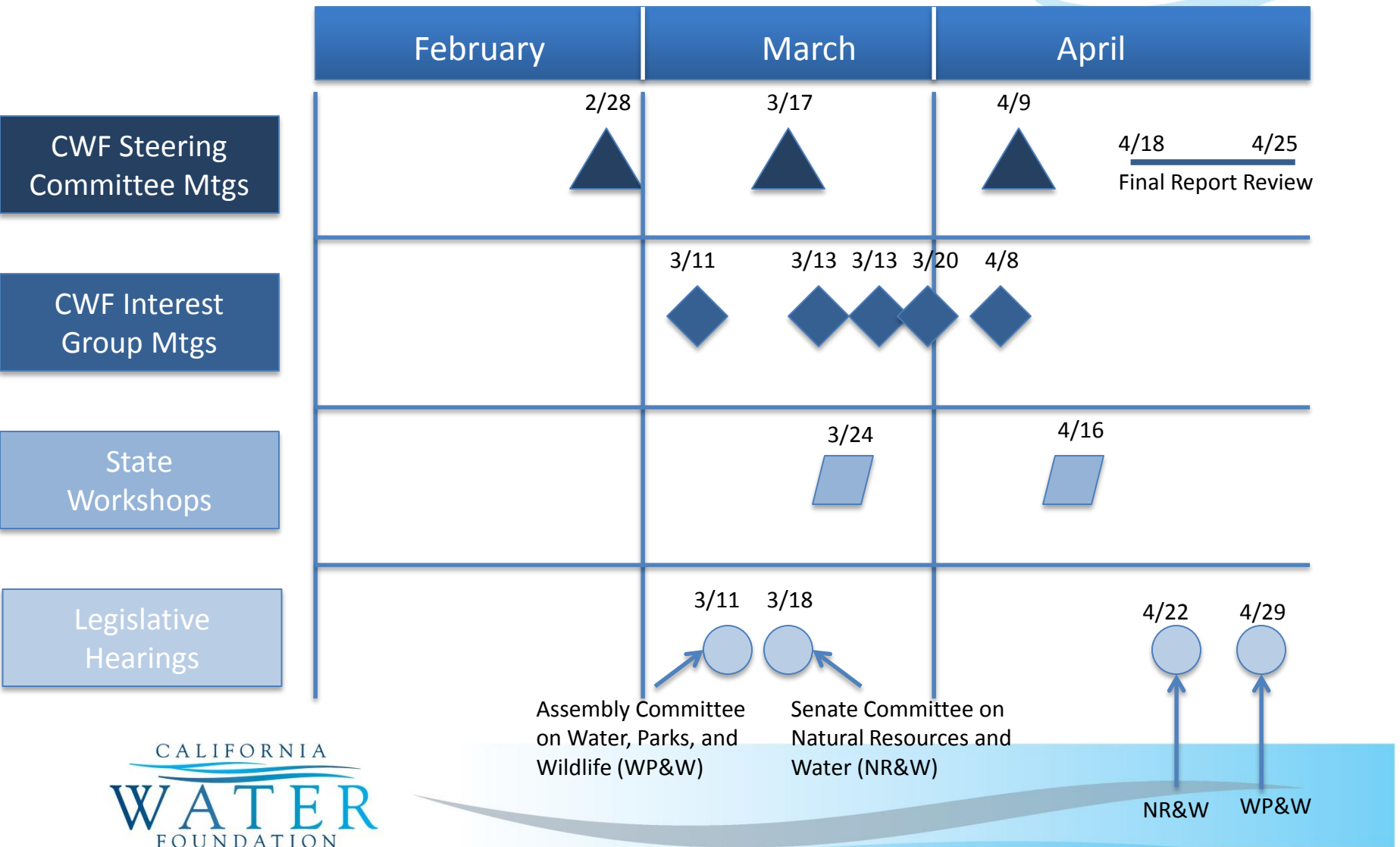
Challenging Issues



- Protection of property rights
- Groundwater management and water quality
- Inclusiveness and transparency
- Land use coordination and collaboration
- Prevention vs. reaction (tipping point)



Sustainable Groundwater Management Processes



Moving Forward

- 100 years to get here
- Critical issue for everyone
- Must avoid the slow moving disaster
- Now is the time

